

INSTANT RUNOFF VOTING

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1. How IRV works

- Voters indicate 1st, 2nd, 3rd, choices on their ballots.
- If no candidate receives a majority of first choice ballots then candidate with least number of votes is eliminated and his/her votes transferred to remaining candidates based upon next choice indicated on those ballots.
- Process repeats until one candidate has a majority and is declared the winner.

Advantages to IRV

- Saves time and expense of runoff elections
- Less need for strategic voting
- More positive campaigns
- Reduces cost of running for office
- Gives voters more choice

Disadvantages of IRV

- Education for voters
- Education for candidates
- Requires compatible voting equipment
- Gives voters more choice

3. Costs of Implementing IRV

- Initial equipment costs (legal)
- Voter education campaign
- Ongoing costs comparable to existing

4. Examples of IRV elections

- San Francisco, CA
- Cambridge, MA
- Most democracies around world use some form of ranked choice voting, such as IRV.

5. Timeline for Implementation

- Task force to solicit community input and propose Charter Amendment wording.
- Clarification of Diebold contract
- Council approval of Charter Amendment
- Election to approve Charter Amendment

(Approx. 2 to 4 years, est.)

6. Citizen's Task Force on IRV

- Review of Diebold contract
- "Vetting" of objections to IRV
- Voter education
- Wording of Charter Amendment

Questions?

